

Frank W. Foss
Moderator, Natick, Massachusetts
13 East Central Street, Natick, MA. 01760
Moderator Phone # 508-231-6288

August 3, 2020

To: Jonathan Freedman, Chair Natick Select Board and members

Dear Select Board Members:

In my role as Natick Town Moderator, I have determined, after consultation with health and public safety officials and others, that due to the public health and safety risks posed by the novel coronavirus COVID-19, Town Meeting Members may be unable to attend the Town of Natick's 2020 Special Town Meeting #1, as scheduled for October, 2020 at 7:30 P.M. Accordingly, I request the Select Board vote and approve that the Town of Natick conduct a Remote (video conferencing or telephone) Town Meeting in conformance with the requirements set forth in Sections 8 (a)-(i) of legislation codified at Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020.

I have selected the video conferencing system known as Zoom Webinar purchased by the Town of Natick from Zoom Video Communications, Inc.

As for the remote Special Town Meeting#1, I have consulted with David Gusmini and Susan Ramsay. Both are Town departmental staff who deal with federal Americans with Disabilities Act, Counsel on Aging matters, etc. They both provided me advice and their thoughts including, but not limited to, the requirement to ask Town Meeting Members, residents and interested parties if they require an accommodation to access and/or participate in Town Meeting. I received no such requests for the Spring Annual Town Meeting, and will make sure that option is available for those requesting an accommodation for the Special Town Meeting #1.

After experience and substantial testing, including the experiences in our 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting, I certify that Zoom Webinar supplemented by telephone connectivity satisfactorily enables Town Meeting to be conducted in substantially the same manner as if the meeting occurred in person at a physical location and in accordance with the operational and functional requirements set forth in Chapter 92 of the Acts of 2020, sections 8(a) through 8(i).

At this time, I intend to call Town Meeting for Tuesday October 20, 2020, at 7:30 P.M. However, after further consultation with the Town Clerk, Town Meeting members, and the Select Board, we may adjourn Town Meeting to the following weekend. However, should Town Meeting vote not to proceed by video conferencing or telephonic means I will seek adjournment of Town Meeting to Saturday October 24 at 1:00 PM at the Natick High School gymnasium, or another convenient date, where it will continue as an in-person meeting.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frank Foss

Frank W. Foss
Town Moderator

cc: Melissa Malone – Town Administrator
Diane Packer – Town Clerk
Karis North – Town Counsel
James White – Board of Health Director
Dr. Anna Nolin – Natick Public Schools